

XXXVIII.—*Obituary.*

HENRY WEMYSS FEILDEN.

SOLDIER and ornithologist, explorer and geologist, sportsman and botanist, author and archaeologist—to few men has it been given to fill so many parts and so well as to Henry Wemyss Feilden.

Born in 1838, the second son of Sir William Feilden, second baronet of Feniscowles, Lancashire, he died on 8 June, 1921, at Burwash in East Sussex, in his 83rd year. He entered the Army at the age of nineteen, and his military career was varied and extensive: India and the Mutiny, China and the Taku Forts, the Boer Campaign in 1881, and the Great Boer War in 1890, when he acted as Paymaster of the Imperial Yeomanry and received the C.B.; garrison duty in Barbados and Natal—all these he experienced, and it also fell to his strange lot to occupy the post of A.A.G. to the Confederate Army in the American Civil War from 1862–1865. The circumstances under which he held this appointment were, that the chiefs of the Confederate forces having made the attempt to conduct their campaign without the discipline of military law, and having failed to do so, turned in their difficulty to Henry Feilden, then on leave in the Southern States and deeply sympathetic with their cause, and enlisted his aid. He surrendered, after the last battle of the Civil War between the North and South, with the remnant of the army of Tennessee under General J. E. Johnston, to General Sherman. In 1864 he married Julia, daughter of Judge David MacCord of South Carolina, who, after more than half a century of happy married life, predeceased him by a year, and from the shock of whose death he never recovered. There were no children of the marriage.

As an ornithologist, Feilden was perhaps best known for his work in connection with the Arctic Expedition of Admiral (then Captain) Nares in 1875, to whose command

he was attached as official naturalist on board H.M.S. 'Alert.' The results of his valuable labours on this occasion were duly recorded on the publication of Nares' second edition of the 'Narrative of the Voyage to the Polar Sea' (1878), Feilden being responsible for the sections on Ethnology, Mammalia, and Ornithology, and jointly with de Rance for that on Geology. The chief ornithological event of the expedition was the finding by Feilden of the nestlings of the Knot (*Tringa canutus*), the eggs of which bird were, however, not discovered till some 25 years afterwards, when they were sent back to Europe by Walter and Birulia in the course of the Russian Polar Expedition, 1900-1903. Besides this voyage to the Arctic, Feilden at various times visited the Færoe Islands ("Birds of the Færoe Islands," Zoologist, 1872, pp. 3210, 3245, 3277), Iceland, Spitzbergen, Novaya Zemlya ('Beyond Petsora Eastward,' by H. J. Pearson, with appendices on the Botany and Geology by H. W. Feilden), the result of his observations on these various journeys also appearing in numerous papers contributed to 'The Ibis,' 'Zoologist,' and other journals.

Much of his work as regards the ornithology of his native country was carried out in conjunction with his friend, the late J. A. Harvie-Brown: together they visited the mainland and isles of Scotland* and together they formed the valuable series of skins which, with the collection of eggs and specimens brought home by Feilden from his various expeditions, was destroyed in the disastrous fire at Harvie-Brown's mansion of Dunipace, Stirlingshire, in 1897. In 1880 Feilden settled for a time at West House, Wells, Norfolk, and while resident there became a member of the Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society, and President of that body in 1885. In 1901 he inherited from his uncle, Mr. Leyland Feilden, the fine Elizabethan house of

* For the account of Feilden's finding the eggs of the Dotterel (*Charadrius morinellus*), see Harvie-Brown & Buckley, 'Fauna of Moray Basin,' vol. ii. p. 172.

‘Rampyndene’ in the High Street, Burwash, where he passed the latter years of his life. He became deeply attached to his adopted county, and was an enthusiastic student and collector of old Wealden ironwork, a fine collection of specimens being presented by him to the Hastings Museum, of which he was an enthusiastic supporter, as well as being an active member of the Hastings and St. Leonards Natural History Society. As a sportsman he retained his keenness almost to the end, and dearly loved to bring back a basket of trout or a few brace of wild pheasants from the lonely streams or deep woodlands of Dallington Forest. He possessed a fair library, though his chief interest in books lay in works relating to exploration and travel, and of these he presented many a scarce volume to the Geographical Society, of which he was so many years a Fellow. In East Sussex he was respected and beloved by all who knew him, and was consulted on many a subject by his friends and neighbours. He was a most courteous and painstaking correspondent and a kindly critic, but, like his great contemporary—Newton—he had an intense horror and dislike of inaccurate statement or unverified reference.

Perhaps one of the most striking traits of a remarkable character was the deep interest and enthusiasm which he always displayed in any matter on which he was engaged, and it is no exaggeration to say that it gave him as much pleasure to record the nesting of the Snipe in the parishes of Burwash and Etehingham in 1914*, as it did to obtain the eggs of the Sanderling (*Tringa arenaria*) in Grinnell-land in 1876.

The writer of this notice was privileged to know him well and to esteem him greatly.

Colonel Feilden was one of the oldest surviving members of the B. O. U., having been elected so long ago as 1873. His military decorations comprise the C.B. (1900) and medals with clasps for the Indian Mutiny (1857–8), the China War (1860), and the Boer War (1900–1). W. H. M.

* “Snipe and Redshank nesting in Sussex.” Hastings & E. Sussex Nat. vol. ii. p. 193.

WILLIAM WARDE FOWLER.

By the death of Mr. William Warde Fowler, which occurred at Kingham in Oxfordshire on 14 June last, we are deprived of one who combined the rare distinction of being both a classical scholar and an ornithologist.

Born at Langford Budville, Somerset, on 16 May, 1847, he was the second son of Mr. John Coke Fowler, a stipendiary magistrate at Swansea. From Marlborough he proceeded to Oxford, where he matriculated at New College, but he won a scholarship at Lincoln in the same year, with which College he was closely associated for the rest of his life, being elected a Fellow in 1872. He graduated in 1870 taking a first class in Lit. Hum., and he served as Tutor and Sub-Rector of his college until he retired from active work a few years ago.

Warde's first and perhaps best-known work, 'A year with the Birds,' was published in 1886 under the pen-name of "An Oxford Tutor." It combined personal charm and good scholarship with a love and power of observation new to that generation of Oxford men. The book deals with bird-life as seen at Oxford, at the writer's country home at Kingham in the valley of the Evenlode, and with observations made in the Alps of Switzerland. The second edition contains a good list of the Oxford birds. His other collected studies were 'Tales of the Birds,' published in 1888, 'Summer Studies of Birds and Books,' 1895, and 'More Tales of the Birds,' in 1902; while in 1901, in collaboration with Prof. L. C. Miall, he edited with introduction and notes an edition of White's Selborne.

Perhaps his most remarkable observations were those on the Marsh-Warbler (*Acrocephalus palustris*). Owing to its very close resemblance to the Reed-Warbler, it escaped the attention of the earlier British ornithologists, and it was not recognized as a British bird even so late as when Newton published his edition of Yarrell. Between the years 1892 and 1905 Mr. Fowler found it nesting every year near his home at Kingham, on the Evenlode, in Oxfordshire; and in

the 'Zoologist' (1906, p. 41) will be found a very good summary of his observations on this rare and elusive bird.

In addition to his publications on birds, Mr. Fowler wrote extensively on the social and religious lives of Romans. His best-known works were perhaps his 'Social Life at Rome' and his studies of Cicero and Virgil, which brought him a considerable reputation as a classical student. He was a most interesting and arresting lecturer, and had a supreme gift of describing an observation so that it both illuminated and fixed on the mind some far-reaching conclusion.

Mr. Warde Fowler was elected a member of the Union in 1887, and remained a member until 1919 when he resigned. He did not contribute to 'The Ibis,' but published most of his papers, describing his observations, in the pages of the 'Zoologist' between 1893 and 1908.

ALPHONSE DUBOIS.

From the last number of the 'Gerfant' we learn of the lamented death of Dr. A. Dubois, the doyen of Belgian ornithologists, which occurred at his villa at Coxyde-sur-Mer, where he has been living since he retired from his post in the Royal Museum of Natural History of Brussels, and where he remained throughout the duration of war, as Coxyde is in the corner of Belgium that was never occupied by the German forces.

Alphonse Dubois was born in 1839 at Aix-la-Chapelle, but his father, Charles Frédéric Dubois, also a well-known naturalist, moved to Brussels in the following year, and Alphonse lived the greater part of his life in that city; here he was educated, and obtained a diploma of Doctor of Medicine at the Free University of the city. In 1869 he was appointed Conservator of the section of the higher Vertebrates at the Royal Museum of Natural History, with which institution he remained connected until his retirement just previous to the outbreak of the war.

Among his more important publications may be mentioned :—

Conspectus systematicus et geographicus Avium Europæarum. 1871.

Le Faune illustrée des Vertébrés de la Belgique. Ser. ii. les Oiseaux. 4 vols., with 427 coloured plates. 1876-1894.

Synopsis Avium: nouveau manuel d'Ornithologie. 2 vols., 16 col. pls. Brussels, 1899-1904. 8vo.

Les animaux nuisable de la Belgique (vertébrés). 1 vol., illustrated. Brussels, 1903.

Revue des dernier systèmes ornithologiques et nouvelle classification proposée pour les oiseaux. Paris, 1891.

Remarques sur l'Ornithologie de l'Etat Indépendant du Congo. Annales du Musée du Congo, vol. i. 1905.

He also contributed to Wytsman's 'Genera Avium' the monographs on the Pelecanidæ, Musophagidæ, and Bucerotidæ, and over a hundred other communications to various scientific journals. He was a good artist, and most of the illustrations of his various works were prepared by himself.

MAX FÜRBRINGER.

The news of the death of Prof. Max Fürbringer, which occurred at Heidelberg on 6 March, 1920, has only recently reached us, probably owing to the difficulty of seeing the German Scientific Journals during the past two years.

Prof. Fürbringer was born at Wittenberg in 1848, and was therefore in his 75th year at the time of his death. He early devoted himself to the study of the anatomy of the Vertebrates, and after holding various minor teaching posts, was successively Professor of Anatomy at the Universities of Amsterdam, Jena, and Heidelberg, where he succeeded his master, Carl Gegenbaur, in 1901, and where he remained for the rest of his life.

His great work, 'Untersuchungen zur Morphologie und Systematik der Vögel zugleich ein Beitrag zur Anatomie der Stütz- und Bewegungsorgane,' was published at Amsterdam

in two large folio volumes in 1888, and will ever be a monument of his industry and learning. It deals at length with the anatomy of the shoulder-girdle of birds; while in the second volume a scheme of classification was proposed, based on all the facts of the internal and external characters of birds. Unfortunately but little attention was paid to this great work by British ornithologists, though it was noticed in 'The Ibis' (1888, p. 413); and an excellent abstract from the pen of Dr. Gadow, Fürbringer's only serious rival in this subject, appeared in 'Nature' (vol. xxxix. 1888, pp. 150-152, 177-181). Dr. Fürbringer also published a later summary of our knowledge of the Anatomy of Birds in the Report of the Second International Ornithological Congress, held at Budapest in 1891, and a further disquisition on the same subject in the 'Jenaische Zeitschrift f. Naturwissenschaft' (xxxvi. pp. 587-736) in 1902, which was also noticed in 'The Ibis' (1903, p. 614).

No serious student of ornithology can neglect the study of these great works, and the death of their author should recall to us their importance and value.

XXXIX.—*Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.*

Arrigoni degli Oddi's list of papers.

[Elenco delle pubblicazioni del Prof. E. Arrigoni degli Oddi (1884-1920). Pp. 1-10. Venezia, 1921. 8vo.]

Count Arrigoni degli Oddi, who is not only one of the leading Italian ornithologists and Professor of Zoology at Padua, but also a Deputy in the Italian Parliament and a member of the B. O. U. since 1896, has favoured us with a number of his publications, most of which have already been noticed in our pages. The list of his papers, mentioned above, contains 162 titles published between 1884 and 1920, and is a proof of his activity in ornithological work.